

5th-6th GRADE SOFTBALL RULES 2024 (FINAL)

Rules are the same as those listed in the 2020 ASA Rule, with the following exceptions:

Base lengths are 60 feet. Pitching distance is 37 feet.

Ball Size: a 11" ball will be used for all games.

For each game, the HOME team (listed last on the schedule). Each team will provide the umpire with TWO new game balls; the Home team is also responsible for providing the bases and the pitching rubber. BOTH teams are responsible for field condition and general grounds keeping duties! Please clean up the area on your side before you leave the field!!! BOTH teams should provide a score keeper with the home team being the official book.

Speed-up rules apply for the catcher – if the catcher is on base at the point of two outs – the catcher may be freely substituted in order to gear up for catching.

Pitching is Fast Pitch – they must start on the plate, they can end off the plate and use one complete step process. The Double Crow Foot is not allowed (a pitcher may not take a hop first off the pitcher's mound and then step towards the batter prior to the pitch). **If the pitcher hits a batter that is not diving out over the plate, more than 2 times, the pitcher can be removed from pitching for the remainder of the game, this is at the discretion of the umpire in consultation with the two head coaches.**

A pitcher can pitch a maximum of 3 innings (9 outs) within a game.

NO STEALING! The player may lead off the base once the ball has left the pitcher's hand. A player may not advance on a passed ball.

NO head first sliding.

PLAYERS must slide on close plays.

Coaches MUST use a continuous batting order. (i.e. if a team has 12 players- it must have a 12 player batting order. A limit of 5 runs may be scored per inning unless the losing team is down by more than 5 in that situation the team behind can score more than 5 runs until the score is tied.

Substitutions: *Unlimited free substitution is allowed on defense. Each player listed on the roster And present must play at least two innings of defense.*

Players who need to leave early will be removed from the lineup without penalty (no out). Players who arrive late will be added to the end of the lineup and the minimum play requirements DO NOT APPLY.

ANY bats (wooden or metallic) are legal. There are NO weight-to-length bat restrictions. Cracked or badly-dented bats, or bats without knobs are NOT legal.

Metal cleats are NOT allowed.

Rained-out games: The home team must notify the OPPOSING team by 2 PM if the field is not playable, if you cannot reach the coach by phone please call the school as well so the students and parents can be notified. In the case of lightning, the game must be terminated immediately and rescheduled for a later date. A game will be called for weather when either coach feels the field conditions have become unsafe for the players.

Ten run rule: if the visiting team is ahead by ten or more runs at the end of five or six FULL innings, or if the home team is ahead by ten runs at ANY point after 4½ innings, the game is over.

2 Hour Time limit – no inning may start after one and a half hours from the start of the game.
The home team's scorekeeper (who is the official scorekeeper) will make a note of the time the game started.

Coaches: It is recommended that you carry a copy of these rules to each game.

NO standings will be kept for the 5/6 softball league, and there is no end of the season tournament at this level.